

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 05344 162253Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02 PA-01 ICAE-00 HA-05
/048 W

-----111034 162300Z /15

O 162243Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 524

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5344

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS PINT, PFOR, PE
SUBJECT: PERU ELECTIONS - SUGGESTED USG STATEMENT

REF: STATE 148245

1. THERE FOLLOWS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION A
DRAFT STATEMENT THAT THE SPOKESMAN MIGHT READ NEXT WEEK.
I WOULD SUGGEST WAITING AT LEAST UNTIL TUESDAY SO THAT
WE HAVE A FAIRLY GOOD FIX ON THE EXTENT OF THE POPULAR
PARTICIPATION AND POSSIBLE CONTROVERSIES THAT MIGHT
ARISE.

QUOTE WE HAVE BEEN MOST GRATIFIED TO LEARN THAT
SUNDAY'S ELECTION IN PERU ATTRACTED A SUBSTANTIAL POPULAR
TURNOUT AND CAME OFF WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT. THIS WAS
THE FIRST NATIONAL ELECTION IN PERU IN 15 YEARS. THE
VOTERS ELECTED A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY THAT WILL MEET
BEGINNING NEXT MONTH TO WRITE A NEW CONSTITUTION.
GENERAL ELECTIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 1980 AND AN ELECTED
PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS ARE TO TAKE OFFICE IN JULY OF THAT YEAR.
IT IS A CREDIT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF PERU THAT THIS
FIRST STEP IN THE RETURN OF DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN TAKEN DESPITE
THE SEVERE ECONOMIC CRISIS NOW AFFLICTING THE
COUNTRY. WE SHALL FOLLOW WITH INTEREST THE WORK
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PAGE 02 LIMA 05344 162253Z

OF THE ASSEMBLY AS IT LAYS THE FOUNDATIONS FOR ELECTED,
REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. END QUOTE.

2. STATEMENTS FROM OTHER DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS IN THE
HEMISPHERE WOULD IN OUR JUDGMENT BE MOST APPROPRIATE.
HAYA BELIEVES HE HAS AGREEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENTS
OF VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA WILL ISSUE SUCH STATEMENTS.

SIMILAR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM MEXICO AND COSTA
RICA WOULD BE HELPFUL.
SHLAUDEMAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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